



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 3, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Transportation Division, Public Works

SUBJECT: Increase Revenue And Expenses For The Union Pacific Cleanup Project

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Increase the estimated Fiscal Year 2008 Streets revenue budget by \$37,000 and appropriate same to the Fiscal Year 2008 Streets operating budget;
- B. Authorize the City Administrator to execute an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with Union Pacific to increase the number of days and the dollar amount that Union Pacific will reimburse the City in a form approved by the City Attorney;
- C. Approve the California Conservation Corps as the sole source service provider for cleaning the railroad corridor in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Santa Barbara and Union Pacific Railroad; and
- D. Increase the Purchase Order with the California Conservation Corps by \$37,000 for a new value of \$106,120.

DISCUSSION:

On April 17, 2007, Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) establishing a partnership to address problems within City limits along the UP railroad corridor. To address concerns, the parties developed short and long-term strategies to remove graffiti, reduce litter, and remedy related problems. Under the MOU, the City agreed to hire a California Conservation Corp. (CCC) crew to clean the corridor and UP agreed to reimburse the City for the cost of the CCC crew.

In the first year of the agreement, eleven monthly cleanups covered 90% of the railroad corridor. Six thousand hours of City, UP, and CCC crew time were invested. Four hundred eighty-eight cubic yards of mulch from chipped trees and shrubs were spread to control weeds. One hundred twenty-four cubic yards of debris from illegal encampments and dumping was removed. Over 500 used and discarded hypodermic needles were collected. More than 46,000 square feet of graffiti covering bridges, fences, and other structures in the corridor has been removed.

The cleanup project began with a plan to have City Streets Staff and CCC crews spend about 35 days to complete the work in a year. Given the conditions, this was not enough time to complete the cleanup of the 5.9 mile long UP corridor. Many sections with overgrown vegetation are steep and prevent heavy equipment and vehicle access, making both the cleanup and removal of plant and debris difficult. Staff anticipates completing the clean-up of the entire UP corridor by July 30, 2008. Subsequent clean-up projects will then be done quarterly with removal of graffiti completed as necessary.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

UP will reimburse the City for the additional cost. Council action is necessary to authorize payment to the California Conservation Corps and appropriate an additional \$37,000 to the Streets operating budget for Fiscal Year 2008, and increase the Fiscal Year 2008 Streets revenue by \$37,000.

PREPARED BY: Browning Allen, Transportation Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office